



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee**
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
Jimmie Jenkins
Brenda Richardson
Paivi Spoon
Beverly Warfield

WASA Staff Present

Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment (DWT), reported that plant performance was excellent for March with 100% compliance with permit parameters. Flow averaged 288 MGD for the month with a resulting 12-month rolling average of 296 MGD. The plant has averaged below 300 MGD since 2007. Rainfall for the month was low at 2 inches vs. the normal 3.6 inches. Biosolids production averaged 1266 wet tons per day, with a 12 month average of 1167 tons. BNR performance averaged 7.5 mg/l, with the 12 month rolling average of 7.4 mg/l, which meets the annual nitrogen goal, however the performance of the process continues to be hampered by construction activities.

Mr. Bailey reported on a recent inspection of large return activated sludge (RAS) lines in the nitrification/denitrification process. These pipes are welded steel and have been in service over 25 years, and recently have experienced several leaks. A pipe inspection company was retained to inspect and report on the interior of the pipe, and recommend corrective action. A written report is due

next month, with initial indications that relining is required. Repairs will require taking one half of the nitrification/denitrification facilities out of service for a few weeks during an as yet unscheduled time period. The outage will be coordinated with and approved by, EPA.

After some general questions regarding the Wastewater Treatment report, a Committee member asked that the amount of metered potable water used at Blue Plains be added to the report, whether there was unmetered potable water used, and whether wastewater was reused. Mr. Bailey replied that potable water to Blue Plains is received from two different lines, both metered. Fire hydrants on the plant receive metered water; there are no unmetered potable water connections. The plant also uses a large quantity of treated wastewater within the plant. Mr. Bailey reported that typically 0.5 million gallons per day of potable water are used and 20 million gallons per day of wastewater (process service water) are reused. DWT pays for the metered water used. The Committee member inquired whether the payment included a Pilot fee, and whether it will include an impervious area charge. Mr. Bailey said he would investigate and get back to the committee. The Committee member inquired whether the reported electricity use was for the plant and the Central Operations facility, and requested a similar reporting of electricity use at all WASA facilities. Mr. Lake replied that energy usage by WASA facilities/processes (basically an energy audit) is still something the Committee would like to see, identifying the biggest energy users first.

The Committee member asked whether the Maximo system in the report was something used for the rest of WASA (the answer was yes), and whether the Washington Aqueduct has a similar process. Mr. Benson stated he would find out. The Committee member then requested further information regarding the chart presented in the report that showed the plant's performance relative to the annual goal limit for total nitrogen, and the proposed future permit (legal) limit. The Committee member asked whether the existing plant facilities were capable of consistently meeting the permit limit and if not, by how much does it miss the target?. Ms. Russell replied that the existing system would not allow WASA to be in compliance with the future permit limit. More information relative to the existing process capabilities was requested, and Mr. Bailey stated that a response will be furnished.

III. STATUS UPDATE

1. AWTP NPDES Permit

Mr. Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, advised the Committee that WASA recently met with EPA and all other parties to the litigation on the NPDES permit originally issued in April, 2007, and the two issues: 1) how the TN limit allocation is specified in the permit and 2) the narrative water quality limits for the LTCP. WASA expects to see a permit for formal public comment in May that will be in

general agreement with the discussions that took place and that WASA staff believes are favorable to WASA's goals.

Mr. Lake advised that there will be opportunities to discuss details after the issuance of the draft permit. Ms. Russell suggested that a separate meeting may be required.

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

The LTCP related narrative water quality language is discussed in III.1. above.

A Committee member brought up the issue of a \$42 million contract that was bid recently, and whether the funding splits had been resolved, given that there was a potential \$6 million swing in the DC share. Mr. Benson advised that it had not been resolved yet.

The Committee members asked the status of the on-going negotiation being conducted by the CAOs concerning cost sharing of the TN and LTCP projects. Mr. Lake suggested that discussion be deferred to the full Board meeting next week, when the Chairman of the IMA Blue Plains Chief Administrative Officers Committee will be present and can speak to the negotiations.

IV. STATUS UPDATES

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, updated the Committee on recent activities. Progress continues towards a July construction advertisement for Maryland and D.C. sites.

The interim odor control solution used last year was not successful, so the plan is to go back to the 2007 plan and implement by June 1st.

A Committee member brought up a City Council meeting at which serious issues with Watts Branch and Oxon Run were brought up. The Committee requested a status update on these projects.

2. Potomac Sewage Pumping Station – Consent Decree Compliance: Update

Mr. McLaughlin advised the Committee that the modification of the inlet (crescent plate removal) to the second of three pumps did not produce as dramatic improvement as was experienced with the first pump. One issue is the inability to test the system at full capacity: We need a substantial rainfall event to have enough water to properly test the pumps. Mr. Lake asked about recent dialogue with EPA on issues related to the consent decree, and Ms. Russell advised that

EPA does not consider this a force majeure event, but they are hoping that we can certify performance by May 31st, and that they are not considering assessing penalties for not meeting the Consent Decree deadline if WASA certifies by May 31st. WASA disagrees with their force majeure opinion and is not willing to accept a determination that we are in violation of the Consent Decree. We may have to engage in dispute resolution with EPA.

V. BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Benson reviewed a proposed monthly update format for reporting on the status of the Biosolids Management Program as requested previously by the Committee. Mr. Benson advised the project is moving forward. Mr. Lake requested that the Committee review the report format and information presented and discuss in the May meeting if changes are suggested. The Committee questioned whether milestones for necessary Board action should be included in the report. Mr. Benson responded that the Board has not generally been making decisions on intermediate milestones. A committee member stated that Board only gets involved when approval of proposed contracts is required. Mr. Benson stated he will include some estimated dates, with caveats, for contract packages requiring Board approval.

VI. ENERGY IMPACT OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Benson discussed a handout that listed the energy impacts of four current projects. New diffusers and mixers in the denitrification system are expected to decrease energy usage by 8 MW annually. The future digester project will generate in excess of 8 MW. The TN and LTCP project will result in approximately 2 MW in increased energy demand. A Committee member requested that load factors or capacity factors of these projects be furnished, or that all assumptions built into the numbers be presented. The Committee member also requested the same information for Washington Aqueduct projects paid for by WASA.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

The following four joint use contract items were presented by Mr. Benson and submitted for Committee consideration to forward to the full Board:

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
WAS-07-034-AA-JW	Goods and Services	Reading Crane, Inc.	Option Year 2	\$419,380.00
WAS-07-024-AA-JW	Goods and Services	Ideal Electric	Option Year 2	\$1,007,780.00
WAS-07-012-AA-JS	Goods and Services	M.C. Dean	Option Year 2	\$2,505,400.00
DCFA #400-WSA	Engineering Services	URS Corporation	Supplemental Agreement	\$386,458.00

The Committee agreed to forward all to the full Board for approval.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Six Month Look Ahead: Large Contracts

The updated six-month look-ahead of anticipated large procurements was distributed.

2. Stimulus Program

Thirteen projects have been identified for stimulus program funding and grant applications for six have been or will be submitted this week, with the remaining applications to be submitted by mid-May.

3. Other Business

The Committee requested that staff develop a proposal on how to report energy usage of existing operations.

A Committee member discussed a recent Frontline program, which he said gave a positive picture of what wastewater treatment plants are doing but presented it in such a way as to make it difficult to fully appreciate the positive message.

The desire to have Mr. Batiuk of EPA return and continue his presentation on benefits to the Chesapeake Bay of WASA's TN investment was raised. Mr. Lake said he will be invited back to explain how Blue Plains fits into the Bay Program's Nutrient Allocation Strategy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m., to be followed by the Retail Services Committee.